(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of disaster response team in the railways

429. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "CRS report a bad procedure, says forensic expert" which appeared in 'Hindu' dated 9th October, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an independent transport accidents investigation commission and a disaster response team at National level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Commission of Railway Safety, a statutory body, functioning under administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation, is entrusted with inquiries into serious train accidents under the Railway Act-1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing machinery has been functioning satisfactorily.

Unmanned railway crossings

430. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned railway level crossings, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals with Government to have manned railways/level crossings in order to avert the accidents; and